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Ex. to VanDusen - TCC -

SECRET

DAD

Chrono

BYE-2394-64
26 February 1964
Copy 8

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Comments on DNRO Proposal for U-2 Operations over South Vietnam and Environs (26 February 64)

1. Our reaction to Dr. McMillan's brief letter of 26 February requesting clarification and definition of respective areas of interest as between SAC and CIA U-2's in South and North Vietnam and neighboring areas are about as follows:

a. We see no problem in conceding all of South Vietnam as falling within the purview of the unsanitized SAC U-2 aircraft.

b. The proposal that SAC fly only as far north as the 21st parallel we interpret as an honest effort to assure that there is no border violation of China by U. S. military aircraft and this, therefore, should not be contested.

c. The DNRO proposal that SAC be permitted to cover up to 60 miles west of the western South Vietnamese borders and 60 miles westward into Laos from the eastern border south of the 21st parallel means that for all practical purposes, at the present time, SAC would be responsible for the real lode country from an intelligence targeting point of view in these places. In fact, at the neck of Laos 60 miles from the eastern border takes you into Thailand.

d. If DNRO's proposal were to be accepted at face value, there would be insufficient justification in our view to deploy CIA assets to Takhli to cover those portions of North Vietnam and Laos remaining outside SAC areas of jurisdiction.

2. In view of the above we propose that:

a. South Vietnam, Laos, and North Vietnam with the exception of those portions lying within 30 miles of the China borders be made

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the responsibility of SAC for U-2 reconnaissance purposes.

b. That since the Special Group has already historically approved modest border crossings in conducting TACKLE missions in South China, that TACKLE U-2's not only be responsible for South China coverage with Chinese pilots but also for those areas lying immediately south of the Chinese border in either North Vietnam or Laos.

c. At the same time it should be understood that in essentially being more generous than the DNRO's letter proposes, we are not conceding our position with regard to the possible necessity of deploying to Takhli

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3. There are three maps attached. The first of these shows our interpretation of the DCI's stated position at the Special Group meeting of 24 February, the second detailing DNRO's position and the last showing our current proposal.

4. Should the Chicoms respond to the presence of SAC U-2's on a repeated basis over North Vietnam with the introduction of MIG-21 aircraft in or adjacent to the north Vietnam border areas, we would suggest a review of the decision above in the light of the lesser altitude capability of the SAC aircraft when compared with ours (4,000 feet differential). At the moment, however, there appears to be no adequate GCI capability in North Vietnam even if higher performance aircraft were introduced.

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JAMES A. CUNNINGHAM, JR
Deputy Assistant Director
(Special Activities)

cc: DDCI
DD/S&T

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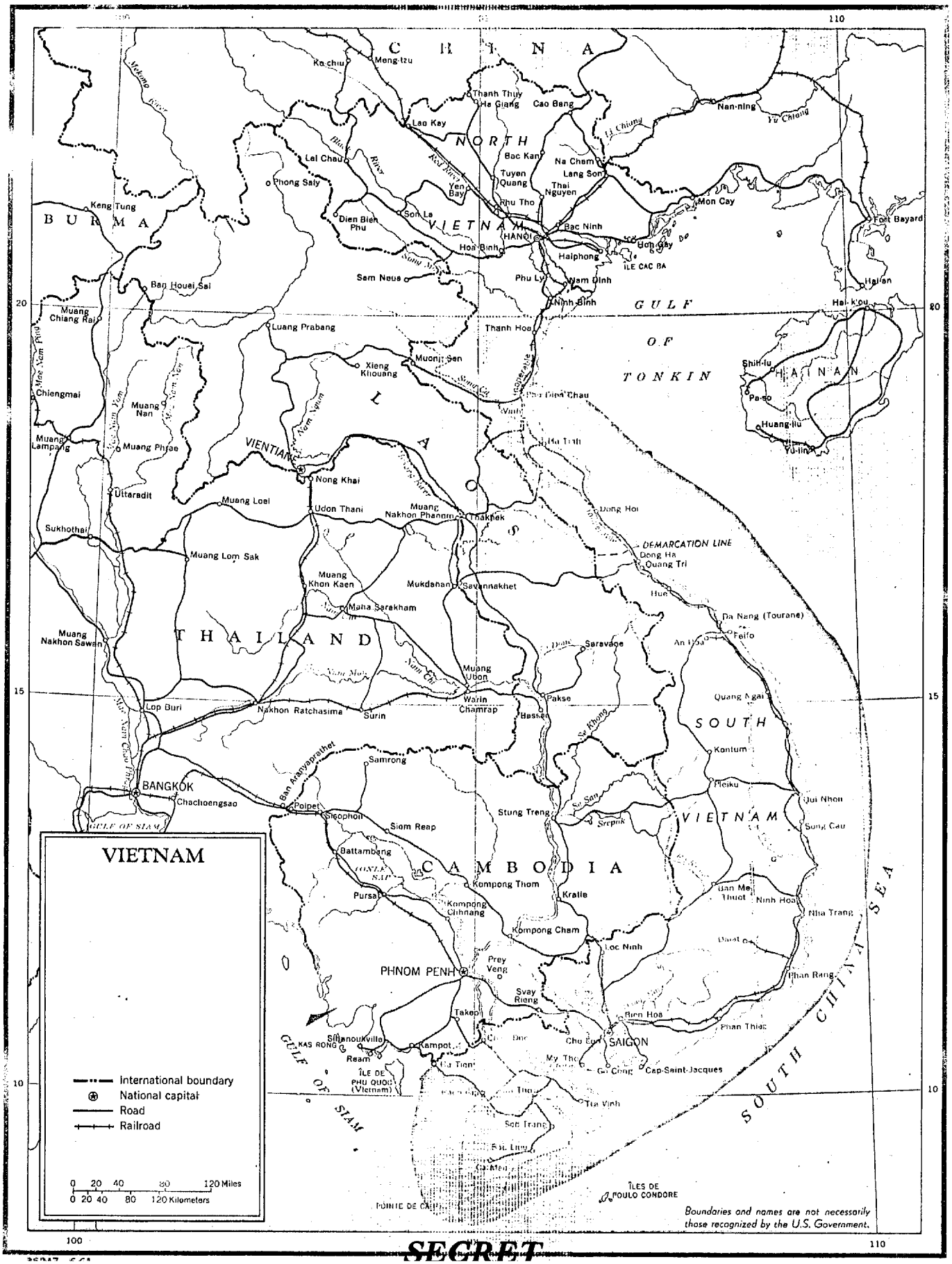

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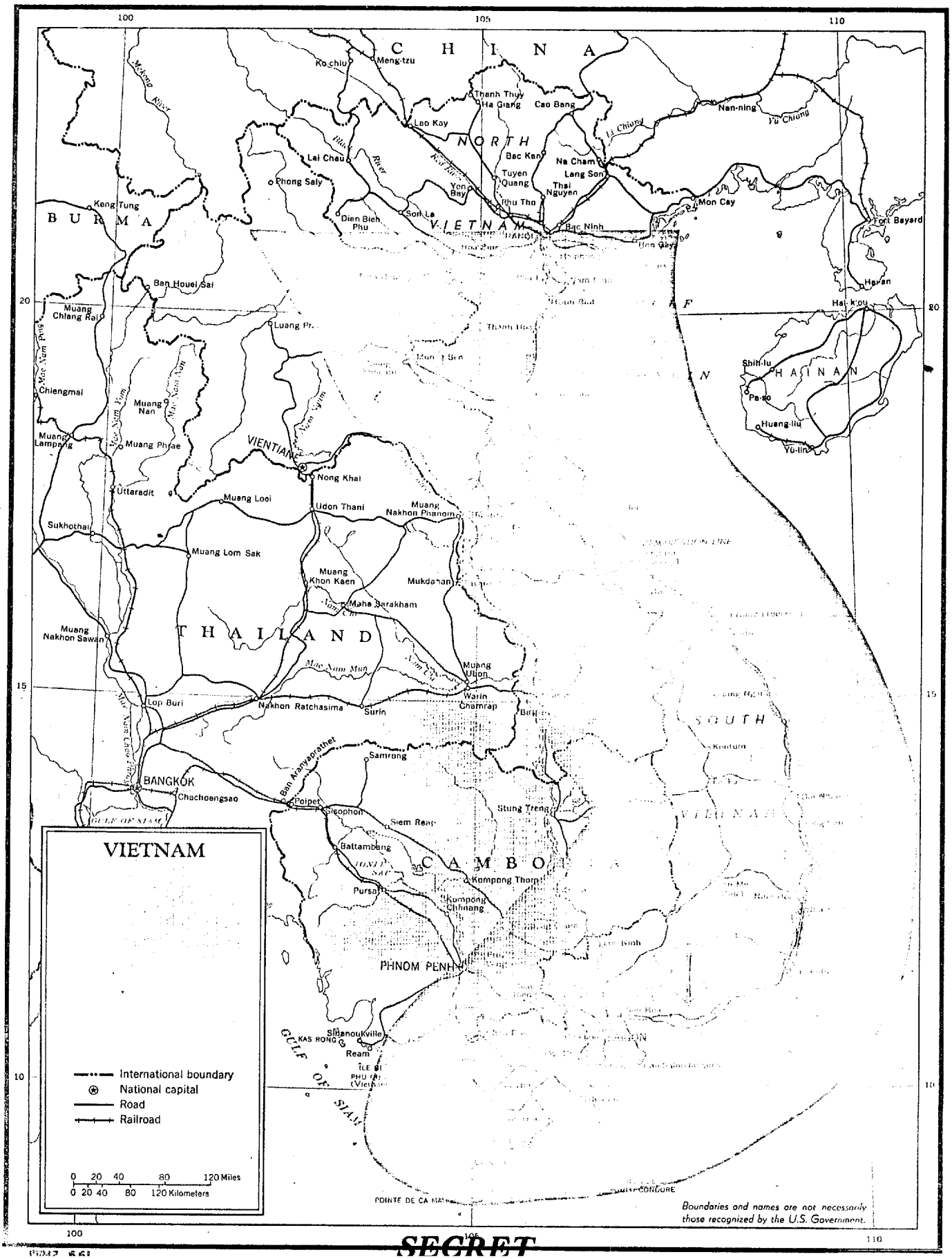

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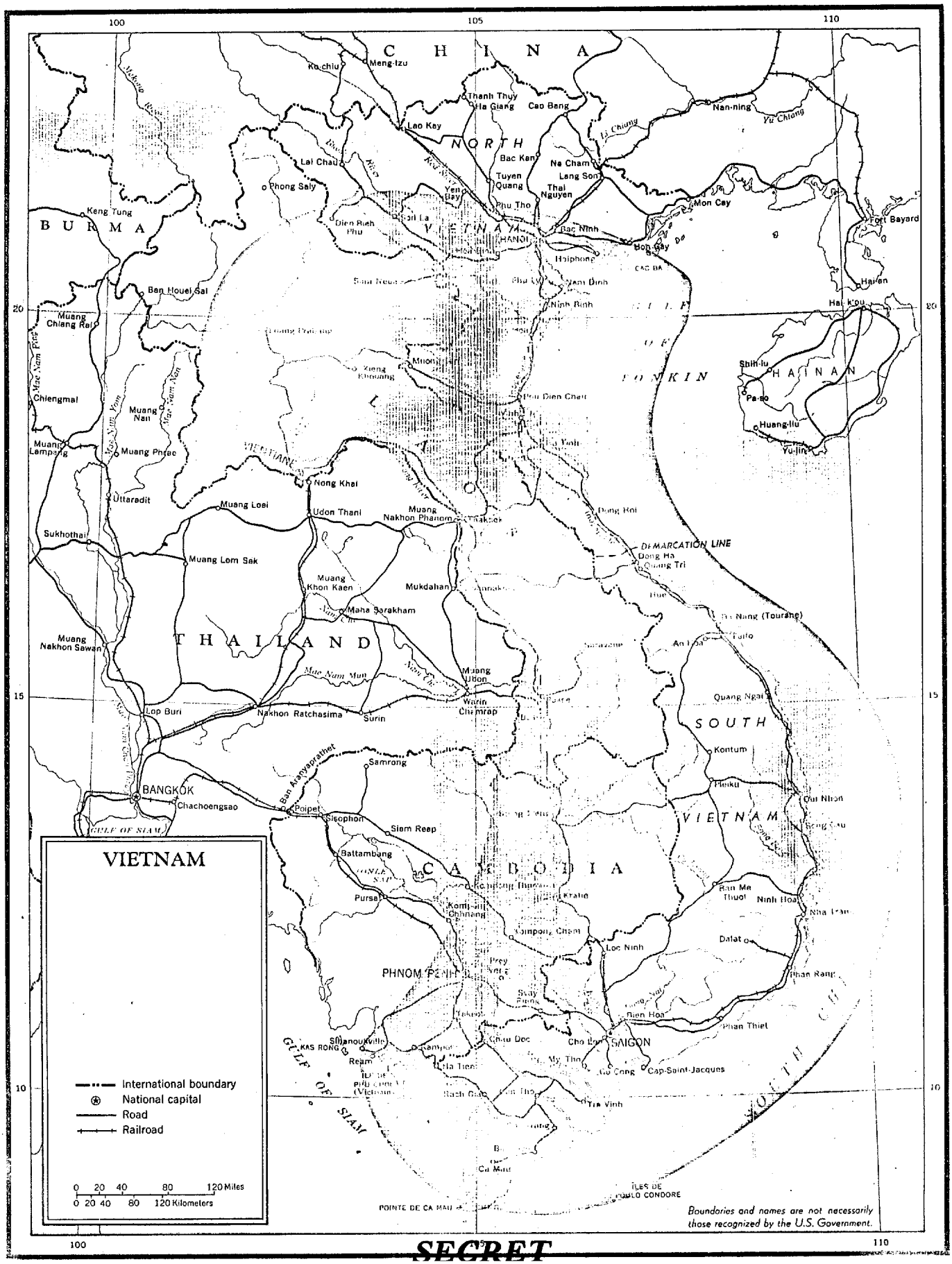

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